

October 25, 2022

The Editor
Wall Street Journal

Dear Editor,

We dispute and strongly object to the biased and ill-intended article in your editorial “Wall Street Courts Hong Kong Strongman John Lee” (October 21).

Contrary to the distorted suggestion that the rule of law or freedom of the press is under threat, the HKSAR Government is unwaveringly committed to the rule of law as guaranteed by the Basic Law, where laws must be observed and lawbreakers held to account.

Freedom of the press is also protected under the Basic Law, the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance, and the Hong Kong National Security Law. All law enforcement and prosecutorial actions are strictly based on law and evidence, and have nothing to do with the profession, political stance or background of the person or entity concerned.

Following a prolonged period of extreme violence that threatened personal safety, large-scale destruction to the city infrastructure, unlawful advocacy of Hong Kong independence and strong interference by foreign forces, the Hong Kong National Security Law has swiftly and effectively restored stability and security. Hong Kong has returned to being an open, safe, vibrant and business-friendly metropolis where businesses are confident and happy to operate.

The HKSAR Government has all along been fully implementing and enforcing sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council. It will not be intimidated by the so-called “sanctions” imposed by foreign governments. They are sheer blatant interference in the internal affairs of the People’s Republic of China under the hypocritical pretext of human rights, democracy and autonomy.

The Global Financial Leaders’ Investment Summit will be a good occasion for leaders of global financial institutions to visit Hong Kong, share their insights on the myriad challenges and opportunities facing the global financial

system, and make informed business assessment and decisions about their operations in our region.

As an international financial and trading centre that is closely connected to global markets and has strong support from our motherland, Hong Kong enjoys clear distinctive advantages, including a common law system, internationally aligned regulatory regimes, a robust financial system, a transparent business environment, free flow of capital, a free trade and investment regime, a simple and competitive tax system and an efficient and clean government. These strengths have long been internationally recognised and the Summit provides a timely chance for global financial leaders to see for themselves the vast opportunities presented by Hong Kong.

Any attempts to negate the free will of people to take part in a summit that promotes communications and positive exchanges by deliberately drawing far-fetched associations and exerting implicit pressure reflect nothing but disgrace, internal sense of insecurity and inadequacy.

Yours sincerely,

Chan Kwok-ki
Chief Secretary for Administration
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region